

# THE CENTURION



“The Voice of the Students”



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## The Race for 2024: A Closer Look



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

### Kamala Harris

**Kassandra Castillo**  
*Centurion Staff*

Vice President Kamala Harris is making history this election cycle and has experienced a whirlwind campaign after President Joe Biden withdrew from reelection. She became the official nominee for the Democratic party on Aug. 5.

At 60 years old, she represents a younger generation of leaders compared to her 78-year-old counterpart Donald Trump.

Harris began her first presidential campaign during the 2020 election, but dropped out due to lack of funding. She was then selected by President Biden as his vice-presidential candidate for her experiences as the California Attorney General and a U.S Senator.

Kamala Harris was born on Oct. 20, 1964 to a Jamaican born father, who was a professor in economics, and Indian born mother, who was a breast cancer research biologist.

She studied at Howard University, a historically black university in Washington D.C where she graduated with a degree in political science and economics.

While at Howard, she had many experiences that led her to where she is today, such as being the mail clerk for California Senator Alan

Canston as well as leading the debate team.

After graduating from Howard, she returned to California to attend the University of California Hastings College of Law where she served as president of its Black Law Students Association.

She was admitted to the California Bar in June of 1990 and she became a deputy district attorney for California that same year.

In 1998, after years in government, Harris was recruited as an Assistant District Attorney where she became Chief of the Career Criminal Division where she prosecuted homicide, burglary, and sexual assault cases.

In 2002, Harris prepared to run for San Francisco District Attorney, even though the odds were against her. Her opponents, Bill Fazio and Terence Hallinan were much more well-known than she was. Through it all, Harris won with 56 percent of the vote, becoming the first person of color elected as the District Attorney of San Francisco.

Harris was elected Attorney General of California in 2010, where she also became the first woman, Black American, and South Asian American to hold the office

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Photo by Gage Skidmore courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

### Donald Trump

**Anna Sztenderowicz**  
*Centurion Staff*

Donald J. Trump is an American politician, businessman and media personality who was the 45th president of the United States. He is currently the Republican nominee in the 2024 presidential election.

Born in Queens, New York in 1946, Trump grew up in a wealthy family. His father, Fred Trump, was a successful real estate developer and passed down his multimillion-dollar wealth to his children.

Trump was educated at the New York Military academy and later obtained a Bachelor of Science degree at the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce from the University of Pennsylvania in 1968.

Trump inherited his father's real estate development company in 1971. He renamed the company The Trump Organization. The company build and renovated skyscrapers, hotels, casinos and golf courses. The Trump Organization became well known in New York and throughout the world.

A sequence of business failures in the 90s resulted in his casinos and hotels filing for bankruptcy.

Trump then began to build a public persona that caught the attention of tabloids and

the press. He released a no. 1 best-selling book, “The Art of the Deal.” He owned a significant amount of the Miss Universe Pageants, and most famously hosted the popular CBS television show, “The Apprentice,” which ran for 15 seasons.

After winning the 2016 presidential election, Trump stepped down from all management roles within the Trump Organization. He appointed his two sons, Donald Trump Jr. And Eric Trump, to manage the company. Trump continued to maintain his financial stake in the organization.

During his presidency, Trump applied irregular methods to communicate priorities, most notably exhibited on the social media platform Twitter, now known as “X.” Trump used the app as a direct means of communication with American citizens, politicians and the press. But there was more to his presidency besides these unusual communication tactics.

The National Archives states that before COVID-19 invaded the nation, Trump had built a prosperous economy. Trump renegotiated previous trade agreements with Mexico, Canada, China, Japan and South Korea.

He signed a crucial tax reform bill that reduced fed-

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### Upcoming Events



**10/24**  
**Fireside Social**  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Newtown Campus

**10/24**  
**Writing and Fiction Drama Workshop**  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Newtown Campus Library, Volta Center

**10/25**  
**Wordsmiths Reading Series**  
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Newtown Campus, Tyler Hall 142

**10/29**  
**Department Day: Donuts with Deans**  
9:00 a.m - 11:00 a.m.  
Upper Bucks Campus, Student Commons

### Letters to the Editor:

Email your letters to: [buckscenturion@gmail.com](mailto:buckscenturion@gmail.com)  
Letters should be limited to 500 words. They will be edited for spelling, space and malicious or libelous statements. Letters must be the original work of the writer and must be signed. For identification purposes, letters must include the writer's full name and telephone number.

# Politics

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## Kamala Harris

in the state's history.

She served as Attorney General of California for seven years until resigning on Jan. 3, 2017 to claim her seat in the U.S Senate after receiving endorsement from both President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden.

This victory was the first of many where she vowed to protect people from the policies of President-elect Donald Trump. She promised to protect immigrants from the policies Trump had announced as part of his 2016 campaign.

As Senator, Harris was an advocate for stricter gun laws, the DREAM Act, legalization of cannabis,

and taxation reform. She believes in fighting for the American people, a slogan she has carried with her throughout her time in politics.

Four years after being elected into Senate, Harris became the highest ranking female official in U.S history.

Harris resigned her seat to take office as Vice President of the United States. Her stern attitude is what caught President Biden's attention. He has said that choosing Harris as his running mate was "the best decision I've made" according to CNN. By Jan. 2021, Kamala Harris was sworn in as the country's first female Vice



*Photo courtesy of The White House President.*

Kamala Devi Harris has lived a life of dedication to the government and the American people. Her slogan, "When we fight, we

win!" gives hope to countless voters this November.

*Continued from page 1 ...*

## Donald Trump

eral regulations. He created protectionist trade policies which included tariffs on foreign products.

Other domestic shifts during his term include Supreme Court and federal judiciary appointments, expansion of military budgets, strict immigration and border control, criminal justice reform and lowered prescription drug costs.

The Trump Administration relocated the United States Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and negotiated normalization agreements between Israel and other countries. This allowed Trump to attend a summit to ease international tensions with Kim Jong Un, which was the first time an American president met with a North Korean leader.

A partial government shutdown took place in 2018 after a disagreement between Trump and Congress over funding for the Mexico-United States border. The disagreement took 35 days to settle.

The following year, a federal whistleblower filed a complaint stating that Trump had influenced Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelensky, to examine the political doings of Joe Biden's son, Hunter Biden.

Later in 2019, the House of Representatives impeached Trump on allegations of Obstruction of

Congress and Abuse of Power. In 2020, the Senate declared Trump innocent on the articles of impeachment.

The remainder of Trump's presidency was devoured by the COVID-19 pandemic, which began in early 2020. Critics said that Trump had a delayed response to the outbreak and did not encourage practice of proper health regulations to reduce the spread of the virus.

The Trump administration joined doctors and scientists to create the program, "Operation Warp Speed," that developed two approved vaccines to fight COVID-19. By the time Trump finished his term in office, there had been more than 400,000 COVID-19 related deaths in America.

Trump lost the 2020 presidential election to the democratic candidate, Joe Biden. Trump publicly declared that voter fraud altered the outcome of the election. On Jan. 6, 2021, Trump supporters traveled to the U.S. Capital to participate in a rally organized by Trump's "Save America" Leadership PAC. Trump spoke to the enormous crowd on The Ellipse, located near the White House. He persuaded the crowd to protest the outcome of the election.

The protest turned into a violent riot when Trump supporters engulfed and outnumbered law enforcement

as the group burst into the United States Capital. The Department of Justice stated that seven civilians and three law enforcement officers died. 1,265 people were arrested and the Capital Building endured millions of dollars in damage.

Trump's actions on Jan. 6 resulted in the House of Representatives agreeing to another Article of Impeachment, this time for Incitement of Insurrection. Trump is the only president in United States history to be impeached twice by Congress.

Trump endured a series of assassination attempts as the 2024 presidential election approaches. On July 13, Trump survived an attempted assassination at his rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. The FBI said that Thomas Matthew Crooks, a 20-year-old from Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, fired eight rounds from an AR-15 semiautomatic rifle from a nearby rooftop. Trump was shot in his right ear while one audience member was killed, and two others were injured. Crook was shot and killed by Secret Service's Counter Sniper Team.

Nine weeks later, another apparent assassination attempt took place at Trump's golf club in West Palm Beach, Florida. Secret Service agents spotted the muzzle of an AK-style rifle



*Photo courtesy of The White House*

through shrubs that line the golf course, 400 yards from the former president. A service agent fired at the gunman, later recognized as Ryan Wesley Routh, and he fled from the scene.

The New York Post covered that local law enforcement arrested an armed man outside of a Trump rally in California on Oct. 13-- the third prevented assassination attempt of Trump. Vem Miller, 49, was flagged at a police checkpoint as he attempted to enter with a fake press pass. Miller's unregistered car was searched, where a shotgun and loaded handgun were discovered.

Trump denies 19 accusations of sexual misconduct, claiming that they were lies used to hurt his presidential campaign. Dozens of women have come forward accusing Trump of episodes of sexual misconduct, dating back to the 1970s.

PBS News reported Trump to be the first former

president criminally indicted. Within five months, he was charged in four different criminal cases, two federal and two state. He faced two charges involving his attempts to change the results of the 2020 election. He faced two more felony convictions in the infamous "hush money" case, in which a jury found him guilty on 34 felony counts for falsifying business records to prevent a sex scandal from impacting the 2016 presidential campaign.

According to the 568, the national polls show that Kamala Harris, Trump's democratic opponent, has maintained a small lead against him since entering the race in late July. Polls are tight in the seven battleground states and averages show that neither candidate has a significant lead in any of them.

## Op-Ed: Young Voters in America

**Jordan Evans**  
*Centurion Staff*

I didn't care much about politics the past couple of elections. To me, staying indifferent in political affairs protected my peace. However, more and more recently we are faced with politicians that want to take away the basic rights of humanity, and along with them the peace of our nation.

During a conversation with a friend about our

differences on politics, I admitted that I'm not voting because I don't trust my judgment in such a serious matter. I don't feel comfortable voting for someone I don't have faith in, and I refuse to "choose the lesser of two evils."

Bucks Political Science Professor Kaiser-Goebel says, "The problem is that a lot of people do not want to be bombarded with terrible news and/or things they just do not believe."

As I get older, I do feel more inclined to keep up with the state of the world and the affect our country has on it. But if this newfound concern is a gift of aging, why is it that young people tend to remain indifferent until pushed by the hands of the clock to give a damn?

While I personally am not voting in November due to naive ignorance, it is hard to ignore the shift in energy towards the upcoming

election fueled by the youth of America. Kaiser-Goebel believes "that this election is seen as more important than others because we are bombarded with commercials that say 'unless you vote for this candidate, x will happen.'" With the advancement of technology comes overconsumption of ads.

After I confessed my political stance on the election, my friend explained why they're choosing to vote, saying, "voting for a pres-

ident should be a selfish decision overall."

These reasons could very much have a significant impact on how young citizens of America vote and how the presidential election will play out. Do we have the power to decide who the next President of the United States of America will be? Democracy says so, but how much power does the younger generation truly hold?

# News

## CBSD to Face Major Changes in New Proposal

**Crystal Stout**  
*Centurion Staff*

In winter 2023, an analysis by KCBA architects revealed that eight Central Bucks School District elementary schools needed significant renovations. The schools in question are Barclay, Buckingham, Doyle, Gayman, Kutz, Linden, Titus, and Warwick.

At a Business Operational Support Services meeting on Sept. 25, Head of Operations Tara Hauser addressed the CBSD school board with a presentation outlining possible approaches to tackling the renovations.

The operation, titled "Update the Eight," offers four potential action plans. The majority of their plans involve closing at least Linden Elementary if not also Doyle and Kutz.

Each plan presents its own logistical and financial challenges, but Yanni explained that "it is imperative that our district develop and maintain a comprehensive, multi-year capital plan to ensure that our schools remain not only operable but conducive to a high-quality education for all students."

In her presentation, Hauser began by giving important context on the history of the schools. She explained that, of the eight elementary schools being discussed, many of them have not seen significant renovations in over 30 years.

Warwick Elementary, for example, was constructed in 1919 and has not been updated since 1977. Kutz Elementary was built in 1936, Titus in 1951, Buckingham in 1955, Gayman and Linden in 1960, Barclay in 1965, and Doyle in 1966.

As a result, all eight are lacking air quality control units and require new HVAC systems. Many also require major updates to their electrical systems to bring them up to ADA compliance.

The architects at KCBA insisted that Doyle and Linden are not worth the cost of renovating and highly recommended their replacement. They suggested that Warwick and Kutz could also stand to be replaced, but could successfully be renovated.

"We know these buildings are in rough shape. They all need a significant amount of work," said Hauser, "so we wanted to come to you [the board] with multiple options."

As such, Hauser's first suggested plan takes aim at Doyle, Linden, and Kutz. In this approach, a new school would be built on the land surrounding the current Doyle Elementary.

This new building would accommodate students from Doyle, Kutz, and those from Linden on the path to CB West. The students on track for CB East would be transferred to Cold Spring since its entire student body is already East bound. Estimates say that this would cost almost \$219 million over ten years, making this the cheapest of the proposed plans.

Hauser used a study provided by FutureThink to predict the size of the student bodies at the time of construction in 2033. According to these numbers, a new Doyle Elementary would be welcoming 380 students from the old Doyle, 352 from Kutz, and 215 from Linden-West. The remaining 90 Linden-East students would be absorbed by Coldspring. The new Doyle would then have a student population of about 947.

The Linden property would likely be used as swing space during construction and later repurposed. The Kutz property might be sold to return some revenue to the district. The remaining schools would receive their needed upgrades.

The second plan is simply renovating all eight schools.

These renovations would be extremely involved. Most of the schools would need full repairs and upgrades. As a result, this plan looks to be more expensive than the previous option with an estimated cost of about \$234.5 million.

Along with the HVAC and electrical work required at all eight schools, some would need full gutting and rebuilding. Kutz and Warwick need all of their casework redone and most of their technology updated. Many of the classrooms in Warwick also need to be reconfigured to be made larger.

Buckingham needs additional upgrades to its waterlines. Barclay requires less work since its HVAC system was updated in 2005. Gayman needs only the basic HVAC and electrical enhancements.

Titus would receive these basics, as well as some additional parking to facilitate smoother traffic flow between the school, its bus lanes, and Route 611. Doyle, Kutz, and Linden would also be receiving updates to their playgrounds. The third plan would see the construction of two new buildings, one on the property of Doyle and one on the property of Warwick. The new Doyle location, like in the first plan, would accommodate students from the current Doyle, Kutz, and Linden-West.

An entirely new Warwick building would be the most expensive course of action with a total cost of around \$271.5 million.

The new Warwick would keep its same student body but would be built larger to accommodate growing populations in the area. It would allow for the potential offloading of students from Barclay and Jamison if ever necessary and would facilitate the construction of more special education classrooms.

The final plan would be combining just Doyle and Linden-West in a new building and leaving the remaining six to be renovated. This plan would roughly cost almost \$250 million.

None of the projected prices include the net cost after the potential sale of one or more properties.

At the operations meeting, the topic of financing these projects was touched on briefly. In his email to CBSD families, Yanni described the discussion as nothing more than an "initial introduction."

Scott Shearer, managing director at PFM Financial Advisors, addressed the board to give an overview of municipal bonds and how they might be utilized to finance the project. He gives a very shallow overview of some of the district's options, including public bonds, private bank loans, or bond pool loans.

Shearer explains that, right now, interest rates for loans are "below historical averages," describing the paths forward as an "overall good time." Since no decisions have been made yet, Shearer could give no official final numbers regarding financing.

Hauser did admit that the renovations would most likely require tax increases. According to PhillyBurbs.com, the 2024-2025 budget for CBSD was already raised drastically earlier this year.

The budget "raises property taxes by 5.3 percent, the maximum permitted by state law without seeking a special exception, leaving the average property taxpayer to pay about \$300 more this year." This represents the largest tax hike for the district in over a decade, following several years with no tax adjustments at all.

The board attributed this drastic uptick in part to "the short-sighted budgeting of

prior administrations," according to PhillyBurbs.

Board member Rick Haring stated in the operations meeting that "prior to this, there was not a good long-term plan in place," and that it is "very upsetting that all of us are having to deal with something that should have been factored in in a long-term plan properly to do this little by little." He emphasized that he is aware of the effect these plans will have on the community, saying "It's disappointing, but it's what we're facing right now."

CBSD is simultaneously in the midst of another expensive initiative; grade realignment. Hauser said that the discussion about the eight elementary schools is being handled independently of the realignment motions, stating that "one does not create a need for the other," and that the eight schools, in particular, are "functionally deficient." The board said they will provide more information about the cumulative effects of both projects on taxpayers when that information is available.

No matter which option is chosen for Update the Eight, construction would not begin until 2028 with the potential new schools not opening until fall of 2031. Yanni also assures the community that "we do not anticipate that any of these options will reduce staff; we would not engage in a series of potential construction projects with the intent to reduce staff."

In his email to CBSD families, Yanni promised that "our Board and Leadership Team will always remain transparent with the community; therefore, I want to be clear that absolutely no decisions have been made about which option to choose."

## Liam Payne Tragically Dead at 31

**Kassandra Castillo**  
*Centurion Staff*

Boy band lover's hearts shattered around the globe after former One Direction band member Liam Payne tragically passed at the age of 31.

Reports of Payne's passing broke headlines on the evening of Oct. 16, 2024. TMZ reported that Payne passed after falling from a third story balcony in Buenos Aires, Argentina. A statement from local police says that officials were already on their way to the hotel prior to the singer falling to his death.

There were reports of Payne going through a violent drug and alcohol-induced bender where many

guests saw him acting frantically in the hotel lobby. He was then escorted to his room, and according to the hotel manager, guests could hear loud noises and banging coming from his hotel room.

Payne's body was found in the inner courtyard of the hotel where he was pronounced dead on the scene. According to an ABC news interview with Alberto Crescenti, the director of the Buenos Aires Emergency Medical Services, Payne fell 13 to 14 meters, the equivalent of about 42 to 45 feet, describing the injuries as "very serious" and "incompatible with life."

Liam Payne first entered the public eye at 14 years old after his 2008 debut on

the British television series The X Factor. He made it past the first round of the competition, but after the Boot Camp stage, he was told by Judge Simon Cowell to return in two years.

He returned to the X Factor in 2010, where he received a standing ovation from Cowell. Liam Payne originally auditioned solo but after considerations of the judges, he was put into a boy band group with four other solo artists called One Direction. The group gained popularity in the UK, ultimately coming in third place on the show.

Following The X Factor, One Direction was signed to Simon Cowell's Syco Entertainment. They

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Photo courtesy of vagueonthehow from Tadcaster, York, England - Liam Payne, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=79113543>

# Bucks News

## Breaking the Stigma Surrounding Recovery

**Samantha Davidson**  
*Centurion Staff*

Two members of the Bucks County Community College staff in charge of operating the Collegiate Recovery Program, Dawn Pullin and Emily Sexton, are working to break the stigma of the often-unspoken topic of recovery.

The need for a Collegiate Recovery program within the Bucks community was recognized two years ago, when a grant was awarded to Pullin. Additionally, in September 2024, the Bucks CRP received a supplemental grant through the Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission.

These funds have been channeled directly into the Collegiate Recovery Program, creating a nurturing and comforting environment for the students involved in the program. Located in the student services building, the Collegiate Recovery Program room feels like a safe haven, outfitted with a comfy sofa, coloring pages, zen music, and snacks - all provided at no cost to the students.

As put by Sexton, "Having events really brings awareness and acceptance

to people in recovery and we've got nothing but positive feedback about that. They also really do love our lounge- whenever students want, they come in here, they scan this [QR code] and they've been leaving us feedback and it's all really awesome."

For interested students, involvement is easy- they can contact Sexton through her email listed on the CRP website. While the CRP aims to reduce the stigma surrounding recovery, student involvement can be a confidential matter. Those in recovery, those who know someone in recovery, or even students who want to be educated on recovery are all welcome.

The Collegiate Recovery Program also spends a significant portion of their time focusing on educational outreach. Narcan, fentanyl, and xylazine testing strips are available at any time, no questions asked for students on campus.

Once a month, the CRP hosts a wellness event at each of the three Bucks campuses. On Nov. 19, from 12 - 1 p.m. in the Rollins Solarium, the Savage Sisters will present "Drug Trends, Harm Reduction and Over-



Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

dose Reversal." However, the crowning achievement for the CRP is their annual Recovery and Mental Health Resource Fair. According to Sexton, last year's fair boasted 45 organizations - this year, that amount is expected to double.

Last year, Nicholas Emeigh was a guest speaker. This year, the torch was passed to Brandon Novak, a

significant recovery influencer. For those interested, The Recovery and Mental Health Resource Fair will take place on March 8.

Those interested in the events, or in the program itself should not hesitate to get involved. The CRP is a welcoming, judgment free environment that aims to aid students in any way possible. The work of the Collegiate Recovery Pro-

gram aims to erase the stigma around recovery, and student involvement is a key factor in this.



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# Bucks News

## Bucks Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

**Kassandra Castillo**  
*Centurion Staff*

Bucks' Student Life hosted a successful Hispanic Heritage Month event with food, drinks and a live Mariachi band in the Gallagher Room earlier this month, bringing the college's Hispanic community together.

The featured band, Mariachi Citlalli, had the audience singing their hearts out as they played their instruments to the tunes of songs requested by students and faculty. During their hour-and-a-half set, Mariachi Citlalli covered songs ranging from "Amor Eterno" by Rocio Durcal to "Como La Flor" by Selena Quintanilla. They had students on their feet dancing to the beat of their Mexican guitarrón and trumpets.

The Gallagher room was filled with a diverse group of individuals that came together to celebrate all things Hispanic culture. Hispanic Heritage Month was created to commemorate the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the country's achievements,

culture and history. These contributions range from traditional Hispanic food to artwork to literature created by Hispanic Americans.

According to the 2023 U.S. Census Bureau, there is an estimate of 65.2 million Hispanic people in the United States, making it the second-largest group of people in the country. This means Hispanic people are the largest ethnic minority group in the United States, making up 18.9 percent of the total population.

For those who may not know the difference between Hispanics, Latinos or "Spanish People," here is a quick break down as the three are often used interchangeably. In reality, though, these words do not mean the same thing. To put it into simple terms:

**Hispanics:** refers to people with ancestry from Spanish-speaking countries.

**Latinos:** refers to people with ancestry from Latin American countries.

**"Spanish People":** refers only to people actually from Spain.

The observation of His-



Photo courtesy of Kassandra Castillo

panic Heritage Month started under the presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson back in 1968. Now, over 50 years later, students at Bucks County Community College continue the tradition. Bucks' students were excited to see their culture showcased, like 17-year-old nursing student, Arismell Hererra, who stated that "It was amazing to see so many people from different

cultures here watching them (the mariachi band) play, and I felt super happy being there to sing songs that I love, that I've listened to since I was a kid."

Many students have hopes to form a Hispanic Student Union at the college. 19-year-old Liberal Arts student Abi Palestino said, "I was looking for something like that in the beginning, but I couldn't find anything

Hispanic related, so I was kind of bummed about that but when I found out things were in the works for it, I am definitely signing up."

Students who have any interest in a Hispanic Student Union should contact Chris Seifert at Student Life. Building a foundation where Hispanics and Latinos can come together will be important for community building at the college.

## Bucks Security and Safety Earns Accreditation

**Madison Kifolo**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

This past summer, Bucks Office of Security and Safety became one of two campus safety agencies in Pennsylvania to receive accreditation from the International Association of

Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA).

According to the Bucks website, "The Bucks Office of Security & Safety demonstrated to outside, impartial experts its compliance with national best-practice standards in the profession. Fewer than

100 agencies have earned this distinctive recognition."

"Achieving accreditation was a multi-year undertaking in which department policies and procedures were completely revised to conform with the campus safety best practices specified by IACLEA's rigorous standards."

IACLEA President Paul Dean said, "We congratulate the Bucks County Community College Office of Security & Safety on achieving IACLEA accreditation, a unique distinction among campus police and public safety agencies. The men and women protecting

your campus have proven through policy and practice the commitment to operate at the highest level of the profession."

This accreditation means increased accountability from agency personnel and commitment to maintaining safety on campus.

RHYTHM OF THE ARTS PRESENTS

# SUGAR SKULL!

A DÍA DE MUERTOS MUSICAL ADVENTURE!

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**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 • 3:30 P.M.**  
Zlock Performing Arts Center, Newtown Campus

A joyous, heartfelt adventure that delves into the rich, tuneful traditions of Día de Muertos bilingual/bicultural musical for young audiences and families that uses traditional music and dance from Mexico to tell the story of twelve-year-old Vita Flores. Vita thinks her family has gone loco planning a celebration for deceased loved ones. Why throw a party for the dead? But when a spirited candy skeleton suddenly springs to life, Vita finds herself on a magical, musical journey to unravel the true meaning of Día de Muertos. Meet Sugar Skull, a charismatic skeleton with a secret or two. With her skeletal new friend, Vita dances with ancient ancestors, sings with a sorrowful sorceress, escapes the trickster Chaneques, and even meets the famous Catrina Calavera. But can this clever youth gather the missing pieces needed for her family ofrenda before it's too late?



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**Zlock** Performing Arts Center  
Bucks County Community College

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## Liam Payne Tragically Dead

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became one of the best-selling boy band groups of all time until their hiatus in 2016.

Liam Payne continued as a solo artist under Republic Records following the end of One Direction. His songs included the hit "Strip That Down," which made it to the top 10 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 list.

Besides music, he was an advocate for people's rights, speaking on his pro-choice stance as well as supporting the Black Lives Matter movement.

Throughout his adulthood, Payne was very open about his struggles with alcohol abuse and mental health. Payne had previously explained that he'd used alcohol to cope with the

success of One Direction, telling Men's Health Australia that "it's difficult when you have the level of fame that we had in the band."

Payne had recently faced backlash on social media after attending former bandmate Niall Horan's concert, with critics saying he was "attention seeking" during Horan's set.

Recent toxicology reports indicate that Payne had more than 3 different kinds of drugs in his system according to NBC News. Pictures released by Buenos Aires police show Payne's hotel room was destroyed, with white substances found near lighters and tinfoil. It is said he was alone at the time of the incident.

**Centurion Student Newspaper meets every Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in Rollins room 127!**

## Entertainment

# The Resurgence of The Menendez Brothers

**Kassandra Castillo**  
*Centurion Staff*

Netflix is known for its contribution to the creation of well-known series such as “Stranger Things”, “Bridgerton”, and “Orange Is the New Black”. With Netflix being the number one streaming service of all time, it’s safe to say they have a huge influence on their consumers.

Netflix’s new series “Monsters” has made headlines as its season 2, which premiered Sept. 19, 2024, showcases the infamous Menendez Brothers murder trial. The new season, titled “Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story,” has given viewers a new examination of the high-profile 1989 case where the brothers were found guilty of murdering their wealthy parents in their Beverly Hills home.

Like most crime drama anthology television series, there has been some dramatization added which has given series creator and director Ryan Murphy a lot of backlash. Many have argued that the 9-episode series gives a poor representation of the abuse and trauma

the brothers endured and to make matters worse, Murphy has been very public on his choice of not contacting the Menendez Brothers for any statements, according to Vanity Fair.

Although Murphy has no interest in advocating for the brothers, he stated in the same Vanity Fair issue, “I believe in justice, but I don’t believe in being part of that machine.”

This series has prompted a huge influx of support for the brothers, enough that new evidence is being brought forward to the Los Angeles District Attorneys’ office in hopes of a possible release for Erik and Lyle.

Erik and Lyle Menendez were found guilty of murdering their parents Jose and Kitty Menendez in their Beverly Hills home in 1989. Many believed the brothers were after their parents multi-million-dollar fortune, but after six years and two trials, the brothers gave several gruesome testimonies detailing the years of physical and sexual abuse they endured by the hands of their parents

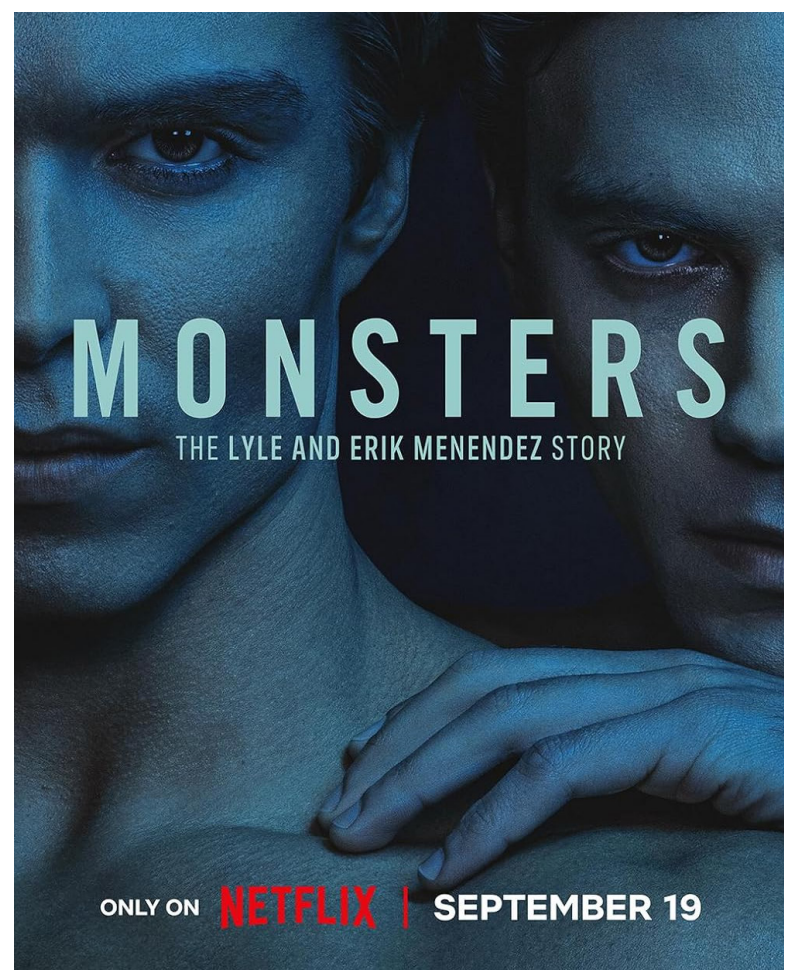
They claimed imperfect self-defense with hopes of getting a lesser sentence.

The pair were up for the death penalty, but instead were sentenced to life without parole, guilty of murder in the first degree. Erik and Lyle, now 53 and 56 respectively, remain incarcerated at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility in San Diego, California.

Regarding the infamous case, 20-year-old Business Administration student, Linda Santamaria said she learned about the Menendez Brothers through a BuzzFeed video a while back. When asked how she felt about being part of a generation that has brought back enough attention to the case to be reopened again she stated, “It’s empowering. To them, they have probably felt like a lost cause after receiving a life sentence so this is a positivity being brought that they never expected.”

Linda believes if this was a recent case it would have received a different outcome. “The sole reason why it turned out the way it did was because they were boys. People believed that this was not something that happened to them during that time. I hope they get out.”

Family members of the



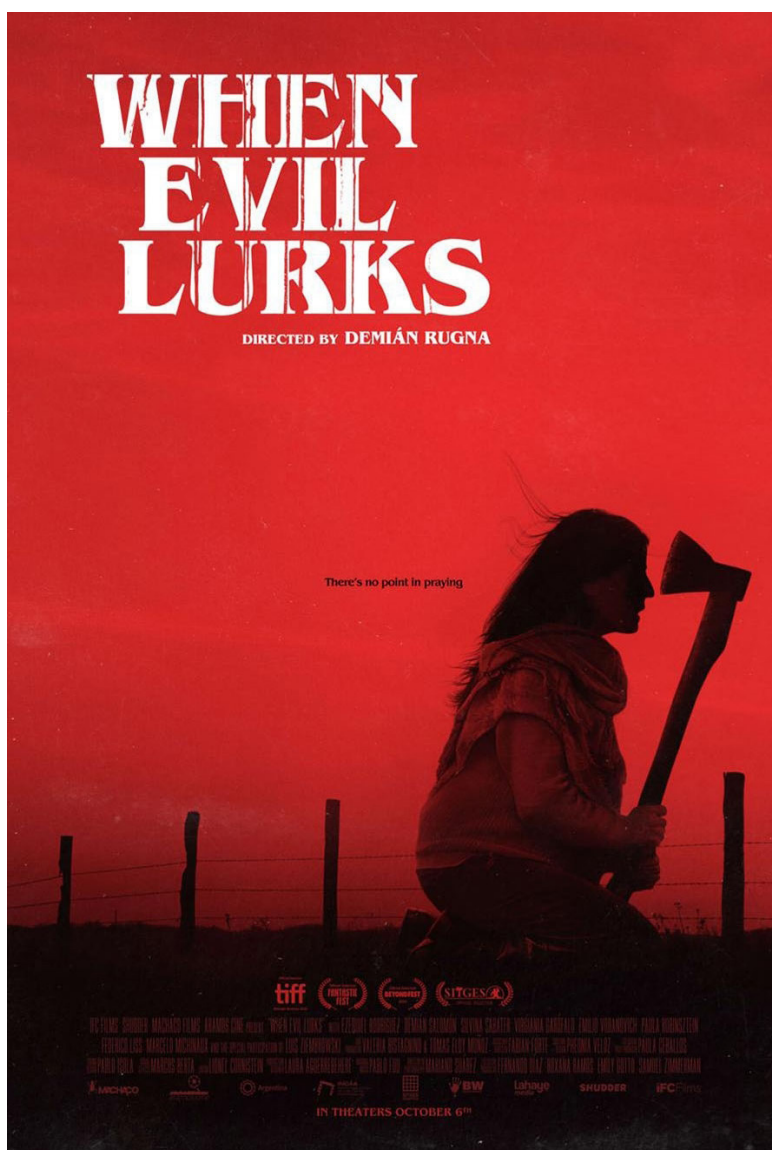
*Photo courtesy of Netflix*

brothers have also pleaded for their release, recounting the prolonged abuse they witnessed firsthand. Joan Andersen VanderMolen, the sister of Kitty Menendez went public at a L.A. County press conference on Oct. 16 stating, “Lyle and Eric were failed by the very people who should have protected them, by their parents, by the system, by society at large. When they

stood trial, the whole world was not ready to believe the boys could be raped... today we know better.”

A new hearing has been set for Erik and Lyle amid new evidence of sexual abuse. Erik and Lyle Menendez will appear in court again on Nov. 29, 2024, which could eventually result in a retrial or resentencing for the notorious duo.

# When Evil Lurks is a Must for Horror Lovers



*Photo courtesy of Shudder*

**Cristopher Ramirez**  
*Editor*

Demián Rugna’s “When Evil Lurks” is a gruesomely unsettling take on the paranormal horror genre that subverts expectations and takes inspiration from Sam Raimi’s “Evil Dead” Franchise along the way.

Rugna, also known for his bone-chilling film, “Terrified” is an Argentinian filmmaker who has been breathing new life into the supernatural horror genre by combining elements from other genres that wouldn’t normally be associated with the supernatural.

Pedro (Ezequiel Rodríguez) and Jimi (Demián Salomón) are two brothers who discover that a man in their town is infected with a demon after finding the lower half of the body of a cleaner while investigating a nearby forest. A cleaner is essentially a govern-

ment-employed exorcist who is supposed to kill the possessed in a particular way to stop the demon from spreading to others.

The two brothers and their paranoid neighbor Ruiz (Luis Ziemkowski) dump the possessed man’s body on a road away from their properties causing the evil within him to spread to others. The brothers go on a journey to try to get their family members to head into the city, so they can get away from the possessed and stop along the way to meet a former cleaner.

Rodríguez’s Pedro is the main focus with him trying to keep his family safe, but inadvertently making everything worse with every action he takes. Rodriguez plays the role very well as a good-intentioned but distant father to his kids.

The film shies away from the religious aspect that

many demonic possession movies are built around, instead, the demonic possessions in the film are more closely related to a viral outbreak, and have their own set of procedures to follow to ensure the demon doesn’t spread.

The cinematography, mainly during the scenes at night, had a dreary and cold feeling. The practical effects were handled extremely well and added to the film’s dreary feel. The film has plenty of shocking moments that would even make the most hardcore horror fans turn away, notably a scene involving a possessed dog.

Rugna’s “When Evil Lurks” creates an unsettling atmosphere with its shocking moments, dreary cinematography and detailed practical effects along with realistic characters making it a must-watch for any fan of the horror genre.

# M. Night Shyamalan’s “Trap” has Lured Fans to Theaters

**Jordan Evans**  
*Centurion Staff*

A loving father takes his teen daughter to her favorite singer’s concert, only to soon realize that the entire concert is a ploy to catch a serial killer. With a man in his basement and his daughter on his arm, Cooper, played by Josh Harnett, must find a way out of the trap that he spent hundreds of dollars for in the name of his sweet daughter, Riley, played by Ariel Donoghue.

“Trap” is one of those movies that is definitely worth the trip to the theaters for. Directed by M. Night Shyamalan and set in Philly, this movie has a sinister hometown vibe. For the greater half of the movie, the audience will find themselves conflicted between the hope that he gets caught for the sake of the greater good and the natural instinct to root for the main character.

M. Night Shyamalan grew up in Penn Valley, Pennsyl-

vania and is proud of it. The majority of his films take place locally and he is even known to be seen at Philly sports games. His daughter, Saleka Shyamalan, stars in “Trap” as Lady Raven, the pop star whose concert was constructed to trap this cold-blooded murderer.

Her cult following, hyper-pop catchy songs, and extravagant performances were based around Taylor-Swift. Saleka Shyamalan even wrote the majority of her character’s music simi-

lar to her muse singer-songwriter.

“Trap” admittedly has some rough edges including underdeveloped characters, rushed conclusion, and subpar acting, but the cinematic experience that it creates carries its rating.

The conflict of loving the character for his humor, diligence and unconditional love for his daughter versus hating him for leaving her stranded throughout the concert and his blood curdling lack of remorse for his

victims is why this movie is so conversation worthy.

A lot of the criticism for “Trap” can be chalked up to the fact that it is PG-13. Does it lean a bit much on the comedy to distract from the fact that it’s not very scary for a horror movie? Yes, of course. All in all, “Trap” gave me hope in the resurgence of movie theater cinema, and did a fabulous job staying age appropriate while still keeping the audience engaged.